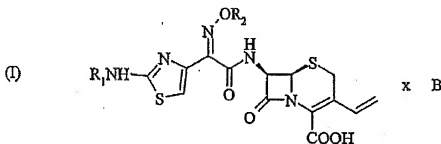


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated salt as set forth in formula (I)



wherein

- R_1 is hydrogen or an amino-protecting group, selected from formyl, an alkyl- or aryl-oxycarbonyl group, or a trityl group wherein each benzene ring is optionally substituted with one or more methoxy and/or methyl groups;
- R_2 is a hydroxy-protecting group selected from a straight or branched C_1 - C_6 alkyl group, a benzyl, benzhydryl or trityl group wherein each benzene ring is optionally substituted with one or more methoxy, nitro and/or methyl groups;
- B is ammonia or an organic base selected from primary amines, secondary amines, tertiary amines, guanidine, amidines or an adduct thereof, wherein said adduct is a complex of said salt and a compound represented as H-Z, wherein H is hydrogen; and
- Z is selected from $-Cl$, $-S$ -mercaptobenzothiazolyl, $-O-P^+(Ph)_3Cl^-$, $-O-P(S)(OEt)_2$, $-O-P(O)(OEt)_2$, $-O-SO_2Me$, $-O-SO_2Ph$, $-O-SO_2-pTol$, $-O-COtBu$,

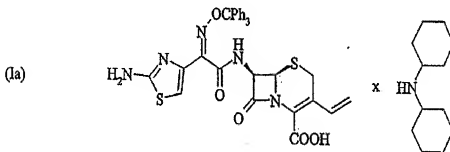
-O-C(O)OEt, -O-benzotriazol-1-yl, -S-(2-methyl-thiadiazol-5-yl) and

-O-CH=N⁺(CH₃)₂Cl⁻ or benzotriazol-1-yl-3-oxide[⁻] ; and

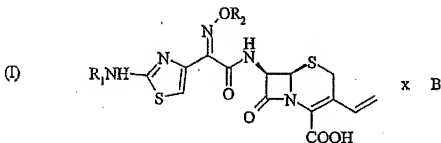
wherein the salt is isolated from a reaction medium.

2. (Previously Presented) The salt as claimed in claim 1 wherein R₁ is a tert-butoxycarbonyl, p-methoxybenzyloxycarbonyl, or trityl group.
3. (Previously Presented) The salt as claimed in claim 1 wherein R₂ is a tert-butyl, p-methoxybenzyl, 3,4-dimethoxybenzyl, benzhydryl, bis(p-methoxyphenyl)methyl or trityl group.
4. (Previously Presented) The salt as claimed in claim 1 wherein R₁ is hydrogen and R₂ is trityl.
5. (Previously Presented) The salt as claimed in claim 1 in which B is a primary amine selected from cyclohexylamine, 2-ethylhexylamine, benzylamine, α-methylbenzylamine and tert-octylamine.
6. (Previously Presented) The salt as claimed in claim 1 in which B is a secondary amine selected from diethylamine, morpholine, dicyclohexylamine, N,N-methylbenzylamine or N, N¹-dibenzylethylenediamine.

7. (Previously Presented) The salt as claimed in claim 6 wherein B is dicyclohexylamine.
8. (Previously Presented) The salt as claimed in claim 1 wherein B is a tertiary amine selected from triethylamine, tributylamine, triisooctylamine, ethyldiisopropylamine, N-methylmorpholine, pyridine, 2,6-lutidine or quinoline.
9. (Previously Presented) The salt as claimed in claim 1 wherein B is 1,1,3,3-tetramethylguanidine.
10. (Previously Presented) The salt as claimed in claim 1 wherein B is 1,5-diazabicyclo[4.3.0]non-5-ene (DBN) or 1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene (DBU).
11. (Previously Presented) The salt of claim 13, wherein said salt is set forth in formula (Ia)



12. (Previously Presented) A method of synthesizing a salt of cefdinir, comprising the step of deprotecting the salt of claim 1.
13. (Currently Amended) A salt as set forth in formula (I)

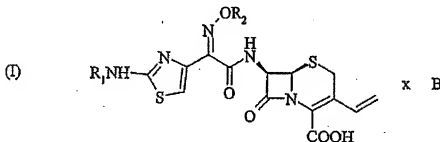


wherein

- R₁ is R₁ is a formyl, tert-butoxycarbonyl, p-methoxybenzyloxycarbonyl, or trityl group;
- R₂ is a hydroxy-protecting group selected from a straight or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl group, a benzyl, benzhydryl or trityl group wherein each benzene ring is optionally substituted with one or more methoxy, nitro and/or methyl groups;
- B is ammonia or an organic base selected from primary amines, secondary amines, tertiary amines, guanidine, amidines or an adduct thereof, wherein said adduct is a complex of said salt and a compound represented as H-Z, wherein H is hydrogen; and
- Z is selected from ~~-Cl, -S-mercaptobenzothiazolyl, -O-P⁺(Ph)₃Cl⁻, -O-P(S)(OEt)₂, -O-P(O)(OEt)₂, -O-SO₂Me, -O-SO₂Ph, -O-SO₂pTol, -O-COtBu, -O-C(O)OEt, -O-~~

benzotriazol-1-yl, -S-(2-methyl-thiadiazol-5-yl) and -O-CH=N⁺(CH₃)₂Cl⁻ or
benzotriazol-1-yl-3-oxide.

14. (Previously Presented) A method of synthesizing a salt of cefdinir, comprising the step of deprotecting the salt of claim 13.
15. (Currently Amended) A salt as set forth in formula (I)



wherein

- R₁ is an amino-protecting group, selected from an alkyl- or aryl-oxycarbonyl group, or a trityl group wherein each benzene ring is optionally substituted with one or more methoxy and/or methyl groups;
- R₂ is a hydroxy-protecting group selected from a straight or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl group, a benzyl, benzhydryl or trityl group wherein each benzene ring is optionally substituted with one or more methoxy, nitro and/or methyl groups; and

B is ammonia or an organic base selected from primary amines, secondary amines, tertiary amines, guanidine, amidines or an adduct thereof, wherein said adduct is a complex of said salt and a compound represented as H-Z, wherein H is hydrogen; and

Z is selected from -Cl, -S-mercaptobenzothiazolyl, -O-P⁺(Ph)₃Cl⁻,

~~-O-P(S)(OEt)₂, -O-P(O)(OEt)₂, -O-SO₂Me, -O-SO₂Ph, -O-SO₂-pTol, -O-COtBu,~~

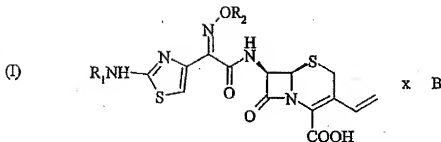
~~-O-C(O)OEt, -O-benzotriazol-1-yl, -S-(2-methyl-thiadiazol-5-yl) and~~

~~-O-CH=N⁺(CH₃)₂Cl⁻ or benzotriazol-1-yl-3-oxide.~~

16. (Previously Presented) An adduct of a salt of claim 15.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A crystal of a salt as set forth in formula (I)



wherein

R_1 is hydrogen or an amino-protecting group, selected from formyl, an alkyl- or aryl-oxycarbonyl group, or a trityl group wherein each benzene ring is optionally substituted with one or more methoxy and/or methyl groups:

R_2 is a hydroxy-protecting group selected from a straight or branched C_1 - C_6 alkyl group, a benzyl, benzhydryl or trityl group wherein each benzene ring is optionally substituted with one or more methoxy, nitro and/or methyl groups;

B is ammonia or an organic base selected from primary amines, secondary amines, tertiary amines, guanidine, amidines or an adduct thereof, wherein said adduct is a complex of said salt and a compound represented as H-Z, wherein H is hydrogen; and

Z is selected from $-Cl$, $-S$ -mercaptobenzothiazolyl, $-O-P^+(Ph)_3Cl^-$,

$-O-P(S)(OEt)_2$, $-O-P(O)(OEt)_2$, $-O-SO_2Me$, $-O-SO_2Ph$, $-O-SO_2-pTol$, $-O-COtBu$,

$-O-C(O)OEt$, $-O$ -benzotriazol-1-yl, $-S$ -(2-methyl-thiadiazol-5-yl) and

$-O-CH=N^+(CH_3)_2Cl^-$ or benzotriazol-1-yl-3-oxide.